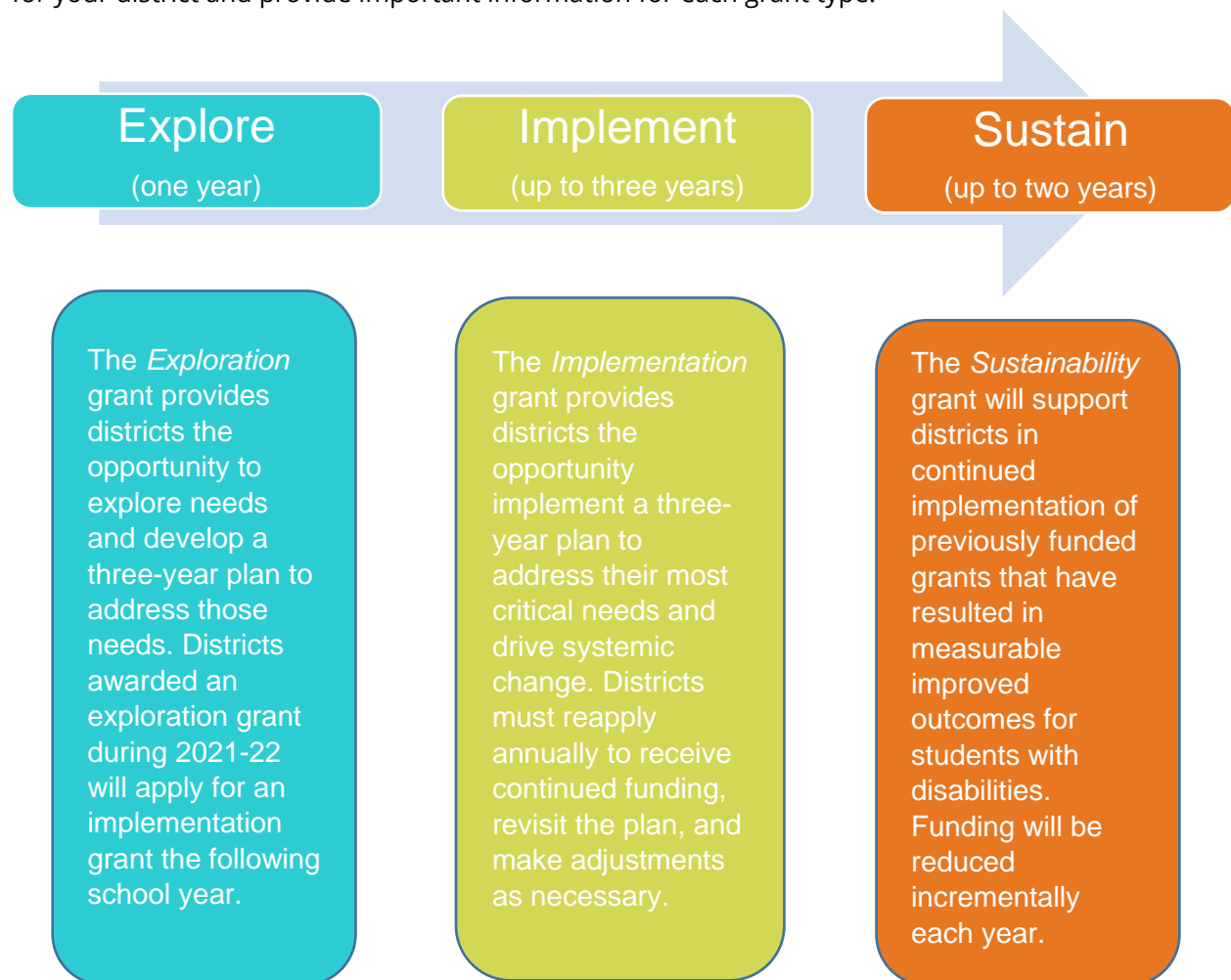# 2021-22 IDEA Partnership for Systemic Change Overview

Through the department's strategic plan, *Best for All*, Tennessee will set all students on a path to success. The department is committed to ensuring that when our students graduate, they can accomplish the dreams they set for themselves and experience seamless transitions to postsecondary education and the workforce.

Grant Opportunities

There are three distinct grant opportunities available to districts for both preschool and K-12. Districts may apply for one grant opportunity to address preschool and/or one grant opportunity to address K-12. The purpose of this guidance is to help you identify the grant opportunity that is right for your district and provide important information for each grant type.

Explore (one year)	Implement (up to three years)	Sustain (up to two years)
The *Exploration* grant provides districts the opportunity to explore needs and develop a three-year plan to address those needs. Districts awarded an exploration grant during 2021-22 will apply for an implementation grant the following school year.	The *Implementation* grant provides districts the opportunity implement a three-year plan to address their most critical needs and drive systemic change. Districts must reapply annually to receive continued funding, revisit the plan, and make adjustments as necessary.	The *Sustainability* grant will support districts in continued implementation of previously funded grants that have resulted in measurable improved outcomes for students with disabilities. Funding will be reduced incrementally each year.

Grant Planning Process

Step One: Review your district plan.

Grant proposals should be directly aligned to the districts' plan for the upcoming school year. Consider the following:

- Have you identified a prioritized need for students with disabilities in the LEA plan?
- Did a root cause analysis identify an underlying cause that could be addressed through grant funding?
- Are there identified systemic changes needed to improve results for students with disabilities?

Step Two: Review the attached [FAQs](#) and list of [resources](#).

Step Three: Determine which grant opportunity is right for your district.

Districts may apply for one grant opportunity to address preschool and/or one grant opportunity to address K-12.

To help you determine which grant opportunity is right for your district, please use the decision tree on the next page. Remember, these grants are intended to drive systemic change — keep your districts' readiness, capacity, and commitment at the forefront as you make this decision.
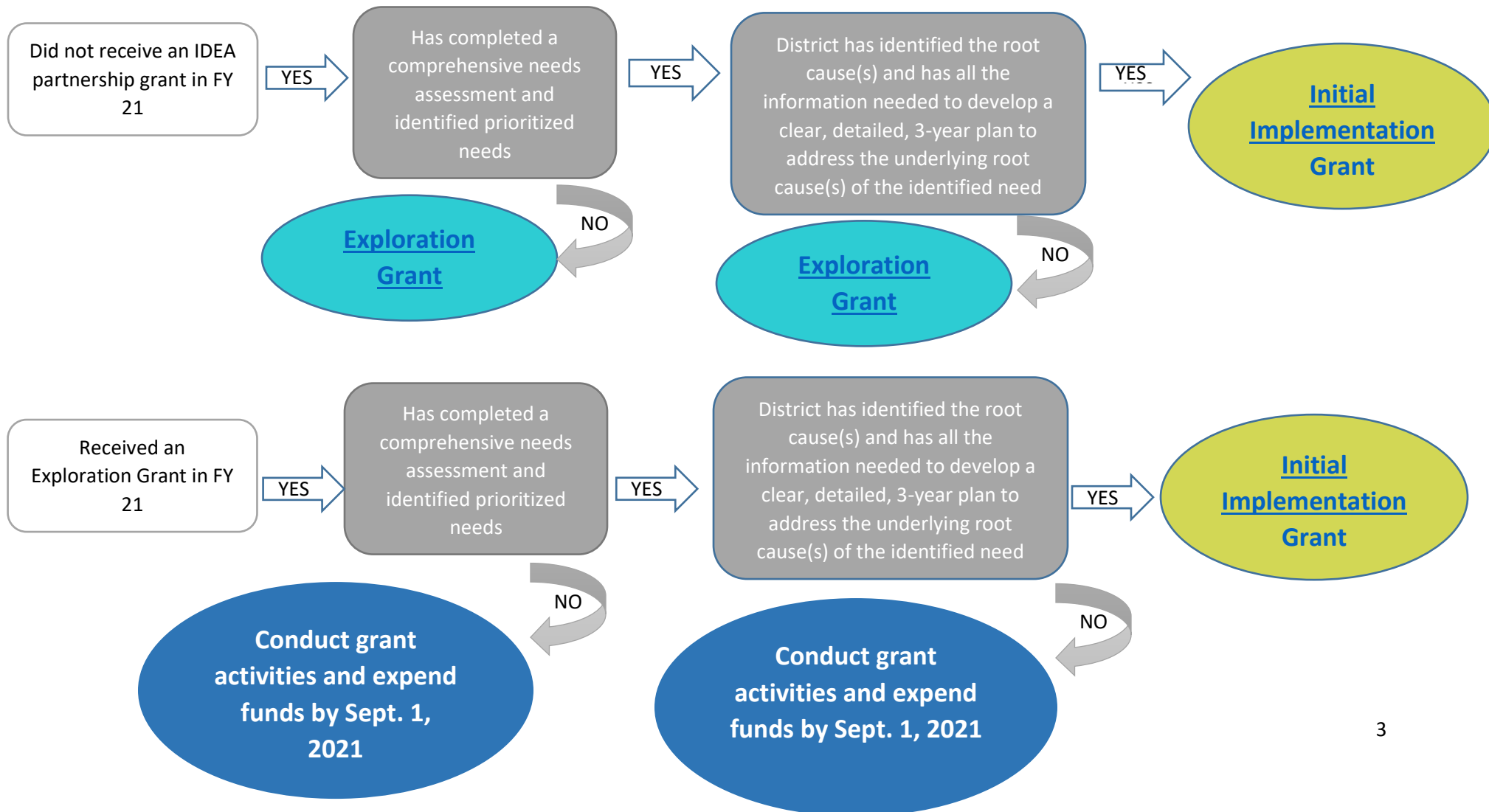
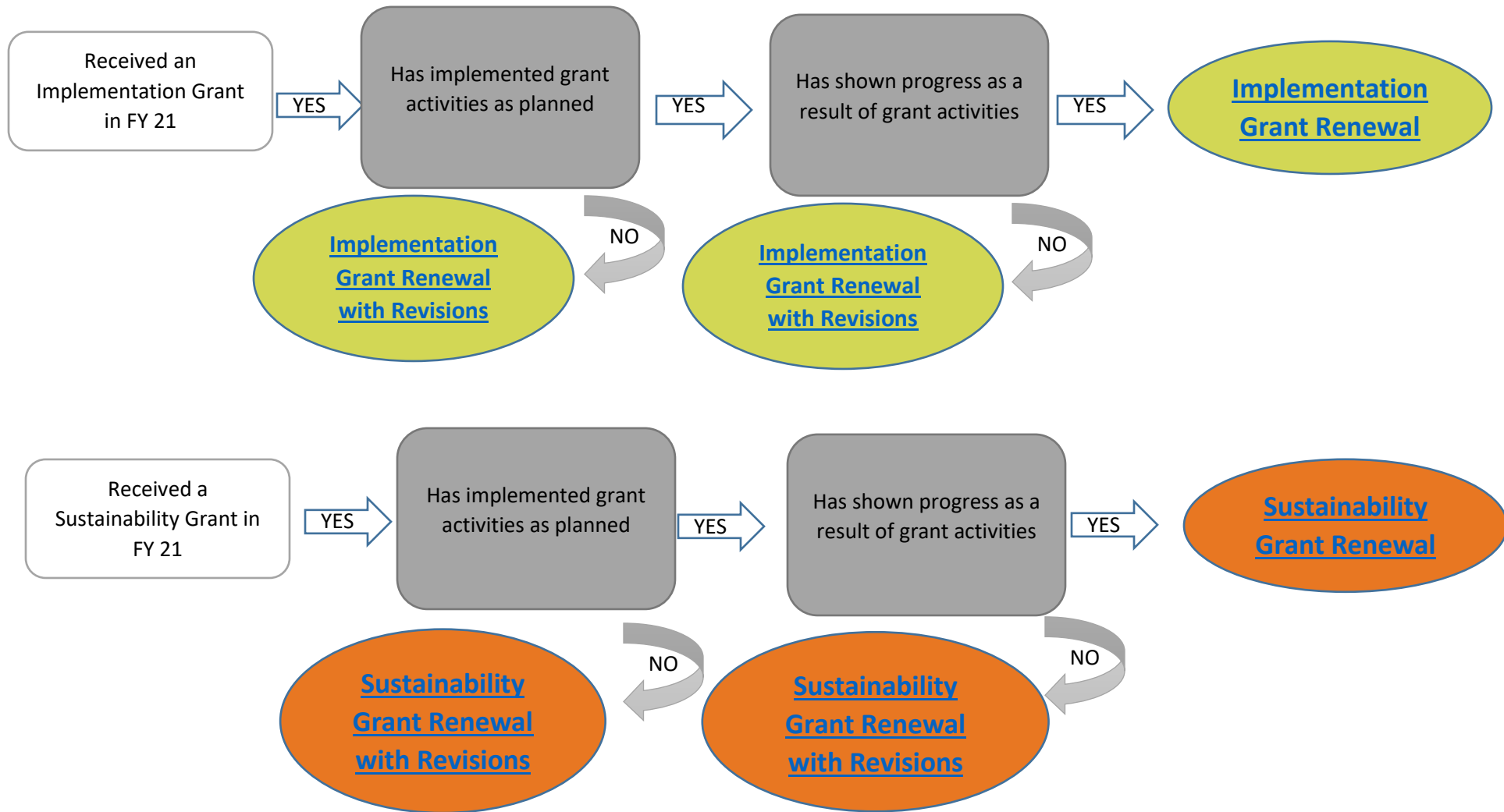**Step Four: Use the attached instructions to complete and submit the proposal.**

- Instructions are attached for each specific grant type — Exploration, Initial Implementation, Implementation Renewal, and Sustainability for both preschool and K-12 grant opportunities.
- Proposals are due in ePlan by **April 16, 2021**.

If you should have any questions, please contact Theresa.Nicholls@tn.gov (K-12) or Gary.X.Smith@tn.gov (preschool).

Which grant is right for your district?

My district:

Did not receive an IDEA partnership grant in FY 21	→ **YES** → Has completed a comprehensive needs assessment and identified prioritized needs	→ **YES** → District has identified the root cause(s) and has all the information needed to develop a clear, detailed, 3-year plan to address the underlying root cause(s) of the identified need	→ **YES** → **Initial Implementation Grant**

NO → **Exploration Grant**

NO → **Exploration Grant**

Received an Exploration Grant in FY 21	→ **YES** → Has completed a comprehensive needs assessment and identified prioritized needs	→ **YES** → District has identified the root cause(s) and has all the information needed to develop a clear, detailed, 3-year plan to address the underlying root cause(s) of the identified need	→ **YES** → **Initial Implementation Grant**

NO → **Conduct grant activities and expend funds by Sept. 1, 2021**

NO → **Conduct grant activities and expend funds by Sept. 1, 2021**

Received an Implementation Grant in FY 21 → **YES** → Has implemented grant activities as planned → **YES** → Has shown progress as a result of grant activities → **YES** → **Implementation Grant Renewal**

NO → **Implementation Grant Renewal with Revisions**

NO → **Implementation Grant Renewal with Revisions**

Received a Sustainability Grant in FY 21 → **YES** → Has implemented grant activities as planned → **YES** → Has shown progress as a result of grant activities → **YES** → **Sustainability Grant Renewal**

NO → **Sustainability Grant Renewal with Revisions**

NO → **Sustainability Grant Renewal with Revisions**

IDEA Partnership for Systemic Change
FAQ's

Prior to beginning your grant application, please take a moment to review these important frequently asked questions.

1. **Can the district apply for both a preschool grant and a K-12 grant?**
   Yes. However, remember that the purpose of these grants is to drive systemic change. It is important to assess the district's capacity to implement both a preschool and a K-12 grant at the same time.

2. **Can the district apply for more than one grant type (explore, implement, sustain) within either the preschool or the K-12 opportunities?**
   No. The district may choose ONE grant opportunity within the preschool and/or K-12 grants.

3. **My district's APR determination is *meets requirements*. Is my district eligible to apply for these grant opportunities?**
   Yes. All districts are encouraged to apply. Grant funding is competitive and grant applications will be competitively scored.

4. **May grant funds be used to hire educational assistants, teachers, or other part- or full-time positions?**
   In general, requests for personnel are discouraged but not prohibited. If a position or positions are requested, it must be clear that each position is only needed for a limited amount of time or that the district has a clear plan to fund the position(s) beyond the grant period.

5. **My district will apply for both a preschool grant and a K-12 grant. Do the grant types selected have to be the same for both preschool and K-12?**
   No. If a district desires to submit both a preschool and a K-12 grant, they can be different types. For example, a district may apply for an Implementation grant for preschool and an Exploration grant for K-12. Regardless of the type of grant submitted, there may only be one preschool and one K-12 submission.

Grant Application Resources

Grant Application Technical Guides
- **Exploration Grant**
  - Initial Grant
- **Implemention Grants**
  - Initial Implementation
  - Renewal Implementation
- **Sustainability Grant**
  - Sustainability Grant Renewal

Annual Performance Report Indicators
- Indicators for Local Determinations: Part B Local Determinations

Needs assessment and root cause analysis
- IDEA Data Center- Equity Inclusion, and Opportunity: Addressing Success Gaps https://ideadata.org/toolkits/
- Centers for Regional Excellence (CORE) District Planning Series Resources
  - Root Case Analysis
    - Recorded webinar: **Play recording**
    - PowerPoint: Root Cause Analysis 2019_2020 District Planning Series Final 12 12
    - Handouts: Root Causes Analysis 2019 2020 District Planning Series Handouts Final 12 12
  - Planning for Improvement
    - PowerPoint: Planning for Improvement 2019 2020 District Planning Series
    - Handouts: Planning for Improvement 2019 2020 District Planning Series Handouts

Systems change
- The Basics of Implementation Science: https://ideadata.org/resources/resource/175/the-basics-of-implementation-science
- State Implementation and Scaling Up of Evidence Based Practices: https://sisep.fpg.unc.edu/
- Active Implementation Hub: https://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/ai-hub

Evidence based Interventions
- Evidence based interventions under the ESSA: https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/es/evidence.asp
- What Works Clearinghouse: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/
- Signetwork: http://www.signetwork.org/content_pages/190
- National Center on Intensive Intervention: https://intensiveintervention.org/